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<http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/hunion/GermanPressReview.pdf>

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On Wiesbaden.Army.Mil

Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course welcomes individuals, families for fun and resiliency



WIESBADEN, Germany - Although only a 15-minute drive from downtown Wiesbaden, the Rheinblick Golf Course may be one of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden's best-kept secrets.

"This is one of the prettiest golf courses that you'll find in Germany," said Jerry Beierschmitt, Rheinblick Golf Course superintendent.

Besides the view from its location high over the Rhein River Valley above vineyards and set in a forested area just outside of Wiesbaden-Frauenstein, "one of the things that makes Rheinblick special is the difficulty of the golf course," Beierschmitt said. "The nice view comes at a price. The course is in fantastic condition but can be difficult at times with the hills -- along with some challenging greens."

But even with some challenging greens, the course welcomes players of all ages and skill levels with a host of classes, tournaments and opportunities for individual and group activities.

"Golfing is most definitely a family activity," Beierschmitt said. "It is a sport for the whole family to play together ... an activity the family can go out and do without any outside distractions (while) getting some exercise and fresh air."

It's also great for building resiliency, Family and MWR officials stated, noting the positive impact of getting away from the stresses of daily life, individual accomplishments and team-member sharing on the greens.

Rheinblick offers several programs to help new players get started. Their Get Golf Ready Program features a series of five, beginner-friendly lessons taught by the professional staff at the golf course for \$99. With sessions starting April 18, May 16, June 13, July 11 and Aug. 29, community members can join fellow golfers to learn the fundamentals and to get started on this life-long pastime.

Juniors ages 7-17 can also pick up the skills needed to enjoy the game of golf during Professional Golf Association Sports Academy classes offered throughout the spring and summer months.

"We offer a full tournament schedule for the year with our three signature events," Beierschmitt said. "The Rheinblick Open, which is a three-day event, is held on the July Fourth weekend. Then comes the two-day Club and Stroke Play Championship held Sept. 3-4. September also brings the competitive spirit out as we have the Army-Air Force challenge Match Sept. 17-18 -- a two-day event held in conjunction with Ramstein.

"Then we offer what we call the 'Blickster Series' -- four events with three different formats of play," he said. These include the Blickster Scramble on April 30, Blickster Chapman on May 28, Blickster Shamble Best Ball July 30 and Blickster 18-Hole Challenge Aug. 27.

Cost to enter any of these Blickster events is \$20 for members, \$35 for U.S. ID cardholder non-members and \$75 for all others.

"Along with these events, we have Community Scrambles and Friday Night Scrambles throughout the year for all levels of golfers to enjoy," Beierschmitt said.

The Community Scrambles are held every Monday at 6 p.m. May through August (except training holiday weekends) and are open to four-person teams for a competitive nine-hole scramble. Friday Night Scrambles likewise start at 6 p.m.

Rheinblick also features Military Unit Tournament Packages. They cost \$40 a person for 18 holes Mondays to Thursdays or \$45 per person for a Friday Tournament Package. There's also a Team Building Golf Clinic for \$10 per hour -- minimum of 10 people.

Those who discover they really like the game of golf will want to consider becoming a Rheinblick Golf Course member to save money and enjoy other benefits.

"When you become a member of Rheinblick your green fees are free for the year. So you can come play as much as you want to without paying a green fee," Beierschmitt said. "You'll also receive a coupon book worth more than \$150, along with discounts on tournament entries.

"But on top of that, if you go to other military golf courses in Germany, you will receive a discount on your green fees there," he added.

Another best-kept secret about the Rheinblick is its welcoming Golf Restaurant with a patio area where diners can enjoy the view over the course and surrounding countryside. With an extensive menu featuring inexpensive, traditional German cuisine, steaks, Balkan specialties and breakfast, diners will be sure to find something for every taste.

"Enjoy a nice meal in the clubhouse as a family," Beierschmitt said, after a round of golf -- or

just to enjoy the serenity of location -- set in the foothills of the Taunus Mountains.

Hikers and bikers are also invited to set off from the Rheinblick parking lot for some time in the woods, before returning for a meal at the Rheinblick Restaurant.

The Rheinblick Golf Course is located just off A-66 on Weisser Weg, 65201 Wiesbaden. For more information about membership, programs and other golf opportunities, call civ (0611) 143-548-5485 or visit Rheinblick on the web at Wiesbaden.armymwr.com.

German Press – Local

Sinking Refugee Numbers: Both Institutions of First Admittance in Wiesbaden Currently Not Fully Occupied

By Manfred Knispel

News article from Wiesbadener Kurier, 02 April 2016

Courtesy Translation: Nadine Bower, Public Affairs Specialist



WIESBADEN – Currently, there are less refugees coming to Hesse. Within the first two days of this past week, there were only 15 refugees arriving, reported the Ministry for Social Affairs. This is now apparent in Wiesbaden as well. Noticeably less refugees have been placed within the institutions of first admittance on Peter-Sander-Strasse and at the former American Arms Hotel on Frankfurter Strasse. Current numbers from the regional council in Darmstadt state that currently only 407 refugees are living at the American Arms Hotel. By the end of January, this number was still 732. Altogether, the building was laid out to house up to 1,000 people. Those numbers look similar at Kastel. There, the highest number of refugees was 484 in December. By the end of March, it had gone down to 172. Only one-third of the institution is occupied.

New Site Concept

Both institutions are satellite sites of the central Hessian institution of first admittance in Giessen. There are 33 of those institutions in Hesse. The refugees have first been registered in Giessen and then spread across the institutions. In general, it is said that the people stay there between 2 to 3 months, until they are finally distributed to the Hessian communities. The Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs reports that there is a total of 12,836 people in the institutions of first admittance in Hesse. This sinking number of refugees, however, is not causing the Ministry for Social Affairs to reconsider the system of institutions of first admittance. “The state government is currently working on a site concept, which is based on the reports of the communities,” say Ministry spokesperson Esther Walter. This basis will

facilitate a final conclusion regarding “which institutions of first admittance will be kept, which ones will be kept only as reserve and which ones will be closed”. “We had to improvise much in the past year,” said the spokeswoman. Now, the focus is on avoiding to produce overcapacities, but also to keep enough institutions to be able to react spontaneously and remain flexible. However, the prognosis that the State Association for Migration (BaMF) made still remains that there will be a projected 600,000 refugees coming to Hesse this year. Altogether, “this situation is very hard to predict,” says Walter. However, she still assumes that the new site concept will be ready by the end of April.

This would mean to Wiesbaden that at this time, there can be no predictions made about the future use of the institution in Kastel and on Frankfurter Strasse. The concept also includes the future of the only remaining emergency accommodation at the Simeonhaus. 370 refugees are currently living there. They had been placed there when the other institutions of first admittance was full.

Plans For Apartments

The state has plans for the return of the American Arms Hotel after two years. Currently, the building is owned by the Institute for Federal Real Estate (BImA), which is responsible for the administration the former U.S. military areas. The Wiesbaden city development organization (SEG) already has finished plans ready to create student apartments, apartments for rent and high-class condos on the 20,000 sqm area.

http://www.wiesbadener-kurier.de/lokales/wiesbaden/nachrichten-wiesbaden/sinkende-fluechtlingzahlen-beide-erstaufnahmeeinrichtungen-in-wiesbaden-sind-derzeit-nicht-ausgelastet_16774103.htm

Wiesbaden: Discussions about Noise Complaints at the Former American Arms Hotel

By Nele Leubner

News article from Wiesbadener Kurier, 07 April 2016

Courtesy Translation: Nadine Bower, Public Affairs Specialist

WIESBADEN – After several complaints about the noise level of the residents of the refugee shelter in the former American Arms Hotel, a meeting was held between the responsible parties to discuss this matter. Representatives of the regional council in Darmstadt and of the Polizei presidium Westhesse, as well as Mayor Ulrich Weimer have met to discuss problems and solutions.

Neighbors had complained in March about the noise during quiet times and during late evening hours. Another complaint that was brought up by the neighbors was the outer appearance of

the building, which didn't even have curtains in the windows. 404 people are currently living in the institution of first admittance on Frankfurter Strasse.

Regional council spokesperson Christoph Süß explained some changes, but also mentioned that some things cannot be solved easily, like the neighbors are wishing for. "We are strongly encouraging the normal German quiet hours," said Süß. Members of the German Red Cross (DRK) and safety personnel are increasingly informing the residents about this subject. In addition to that, there several are so-called "Elder Councils" within the institution, which can distribute information as well.

Window Curtains Declined

"The 24-hour cell phone number of the director of the DRK is posted at the entrances of the building," says Süß. However, one neighbor objects: When he had called the number at 9 p.m. to complain about the noise of a soccer games outside of the hotel, he was "rudely" told that the responsible person for the building was unavailable at the moment, so he was told to call the police. "It would be totally exaggerated to call the police because of a noise complaint," he says. "This should be solved on a different level." However, whenever he wanted to talk to the security personnel at the entrances, they usually turn him away. He emphasizes that "children are supposed to play there – but during reasonable times."

Additional criticism from the neighbors included the missing window curtains and the outer appearance of the building. Some residents cover their windows with bed sheets and blankets. However, the regional council does not make a clear statement regarding the window curtains: "There is high fluctuation among the residents, which is why such things go missing easily. On the other hand, this also has fire safety reasons," said Süß.

"No Moral Police"

There were talks about the use of sight obscuring foils to be put on the windows. "However, these are relatively expensive and they would also prevent the residents from looking through their windows". Another problem had been solved quickly, once the responsible people had been notified: light emission. The outer building lights had initially been too bright, which was complained about by the neighbors. This problem was solved by installing deflectors on the lamps.

Regional council spokesperson Süß thinks that "the neighbors have to deal with certain interferences. If there were construction of new buildings, like initially planned, there would now be construction noise and air pollution. Another thing the neighbors have to accept is that there are food items being stored outside the windows during the cold season. "It does not always make sense to do something against this, because we cannot install a 'moral' police', which checks everything around the clock."

http://www.wiesbadener-kurier.de/lokales/wiesbaden/nachrichten-wiesbaden/wiesbaden-gespraech-wegen-laermbelaestigung-im-ehemaligen-american-arms-hotel_16789079.htm

Salafis in Hanau

Pierre Vogel Active in Hanau

By Gregor Haschnik

News article from Frankfurter Allgemeine, 05 April 2016

Courtesy Translation: Holger Luetzen, Wiesbaden Field Office, 2nd MI, 66th MI



The country-wide known Salafist preacher Pierre Vogel was in Hanau a few days ago. At the beginning of April 2016, a photo was posted on Facebook showing Vogel standing on the bridge connecting Hanau with the suburb of Steinheim. The caption reads “Street Dawa in Hanau”; above it are the words “fully motivated”. “Street Dawa” means

proselytizing on the streets.

Vogel also posted a video that shows him speaking in front of the shopping and cultural center “Forum”. On Facebook, the video was viewed about 20,000 times. Vogel says in this video: “We are looking for people who want to study Islam.” He calls upon his listeners to apply for events held by Bilal Philips as well as for attending an Islamic university in Malaysia. Germany needed people who were able to defend Islam, with words and with arguments. For this task, a deeply rooted knowledge was required.

Officials of the Hessian State Office for the Protection of the Constitution (HLfV) consider Philips to be a radical preacher who among other things represents homophobic views. In April of 2011, he appeared at a rally in Frankfurt; afterwards, the Foreigners’ Office expelled him. A spokesman for the agency said at the time that Philips had violated the human dignity of others on the Internet and had incited hatred.

Polizei is Aware of Video

Vogel, on the other hand, distances himself from violence and has publically condemned the Paris terror attacks. Security agencies, however, see a danger of Vogel’s sermons promoting the radicalization of young Muslims, for instance through his strict interpretation of Islam. Upon a query by Frankfurter Rundschau, the Polizei Presidium South-East Hesse stated that the agency was aware of Vogel’s stay in Hanau, and knew both the photo and the video. The department’s state security branch was evaluating the clip and was also keeping an eye on the issue, Polizei spokesman Rudolf Neu stated.

According to experts, Hanau, next to Frankfurt, Offenbach and Darmstadt, is considered to be a Salafist in the Rhine-Main Area. Several Hanau Salafis are well connected country-wide, even to North Rhine-Westphalia, which is considered to be the Salafi stronghold in Germany.

According to the HLFV, the number of Salafis in the Hanau area was in the “middle to high two-digit figures”, including supporters of political Salafism as well as Jihadi Salafism. Political Salafis, according to the agency, are mostly attempting to spread their ideology by proselytizing, while the jihadist Salafis view armed battle as the only way to realize an Islamist State of God.

<http://www.fr-online.de/hanau-und-main-kinzig/salafisten-in-hanau-pierre-vogel-in-hanau-aktiv,1472866,34049280,view,asFirstTeaser.html>

“Make peace without weapons:” 250 participants during the Mainz-Wiesbaden Easter March

By Christina Oxfort

News article from Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 27 March 2016

Courtesy Translation: Nadine Bower, Public Affairs Specialist, PAO



WIESBADEN – The request to “make peace without weapons” is being repeated loudly again and again. The roughly 250 participants of the Mainz-Wiesbaden Easter March, which had started at the Wiesbaden train station going along Schwalbacher Strasse to the final meeting at Mauritiusplatz, were carrying banners with the word “Peace” written on them. Information material from the German Peace Organisation – United Opponents of War (DFG-VK)

during this annual Easter March, which both state capitals take turns in hosting.

One could hear loud booing when the focus went to Germany’s role as “biggest weapons exporter” and the “imperial warmongering”. Volunteer union member Volker Metzroth (DGB, ver.di, Bad Kreuznach) discussed these subjects during his speech at the train station. The consequences of his firm outlook at the war in Syria determined that Germany should no longer export any weapons to anybody in that region.

The motto of the Easter March was “For a world without war, military and violence”, which was highlighted at the Mauritiusplatz among other local political issues, while singer Sonja Gottlieb performed songs by Hannes Wader (known for his socially and politically critical songs). Meanwhile, leader of the political left fraction and “die Piraten” (the pirates) criticized the move of the U.S. Army headquarters to the state capital. He also the opposition of the CDU-CSU majority at the parliament of the local advisory council towards the closing of the “storage

station” in the Kastel housing area, which is said to be the “primary communication hub of the NSA in Europe”. Around 800 new apartments could be built on the roughly 56 acres terrain. “Instead, the terrain is being misused for military sites.”

Wish for general ban of weapons exports

War is about interests, renewable and natural resources, power and influence: Franz Nadler from the DFG-VK Offenbach, who highlighted the work of the organization with example of the Ukrainian journalist and war objector Ruslan Kotsaba, demands the opening of the borders, so that the refugees can take advantage of their right to asylum. He also criticizes the role of Turkey in the refugee politics, which is now being labeled “refugee defense”.

According to Nadler, war in Turkey is on the rise again after the peace talks with the PKK: “there should be no deal with Turkey at the expense of the people living there,” Nadler demands under applause of the participants of the march. On top of that, there was also loud applause and support for Axel Gerntke from the IG Metall Wiesbaden-Limburg) who is demanding a general conversion of armament and a wish for a general ban of weapons exports.

http://www.allgemeine-zeitung.de/lokales/mainz/nachrichten-mainz/frieden-schaffen-ohne-waffen-250-teilnehmer-beim-mainz-wiesbadener-ostermarsch_16761450.htm

One Orchestra, One Combo; Classical Music and Jazz

America’s musical ambassadors gave a magnificent concert – once more: culture visiting in the province of Erbenheim

By staff writer

News article from Erbenheimer Anzeiger, 24 March 2016

Courtesy Translation: Nadine Bower, Public Affairs Specialist, PAO



It may have been the Jazz variations in the beginning or Cole Porter’s “So in Love” or Charlie Chaplin’s “Smile”. It may have also been the solo piano performance by John Kilik or the dynamic appearances by Michael Chamberlin with his Saxophone; or even the casual, yet highly concentrated play on his double bass by Juan Acosta. No matter which, the audience at the Bürgerhaus Erbenheim was mesmerized by the performance of the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus.

The performance was so captivating that the audience even almost forgot to applaud. The concert of the U.S. orchestra took place on Saturday, March 19th at the almost sold-out Bürgerhaus in Erbenheim.

A jazzy Mozart, brilliantly intonated on the trombone, French horn and trumpet. This was followed by classical pieces, which most people had not expected. However, they enjoyed it

very much. This was especially noticeable during the performance of a woodwind group, which performed a piece by a French composer with enchanting flute playing.

Very impressive was the trumpet solo of “Nessun Dorma” from the opera Turandot by Giacomo Puccini, as well as the rendition of “Fire Dance” by the brass ensemble or the way that the drummer led through the whole performance, reminding of legendary Gene Crupa. A classical highlight was the Suite from *The Good Soldier Schweik*, with a prominent war drum, which made the audience feel the breath of death. Finally, the end of the war was symbolized by the full sound of all instruments.

The last part of the concert was presented by a Jazz Combo and the very talented and charismatic singer Ashley Sangret, who guided the audience to the part of the concert, which they have originally been waiting for. Here, the Jazz Combo rose up to full bloom. Pianist John Kilik and bassist Juan Acosta rose to full potential and together with saxophonist Michael Chamberlin ended the evening under full applause.

Although the United States Army Europe Band is part of the U.S. Army, the musicians are first-class talents in their areas of expertise who can compete with chart-leading professionals from all over the world. This was again every apparent in the small, rural town of Erbenheim where conductor Johnathan Spangler had everything well under control. His way of conducting was relaxed, but confident.

The concert was organized by the office of the Lord Mayor of Wiesbaden. Head of the citizen’s office Karl-Michael Baum welcomed the guests in the foyer of the Bürgerhaus.

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